

From boatanchors@theporch.com Mon Apr 10 05:32:39 1995
Date: Mon, 10 Apr 1995 02:58:10 -0500
Message-Id: <199504100756.CAA24524@zoom.bga.com>
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>
Subject: 6V6's, US, Russian, and Chinese

It's occurred to me that I have about eight 6V6's in various radios perking away, some of them pretty ancient, and at least one showing signs of being on its last legs. Time to lay in a stock of new ones.

What's the deal with the Russian Sovtek tubes vs. US NOS. Also, what's the deal with the Chinese jobbies. Are these any good. How's gas current, etc.

None of the equipment I have that uses these tubes puts any particular stress on them. Generally 250-300V on plates and screens, 12-18 volts bias.

--

Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 12:53:18 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 10:11:32 -0500
Message-Id: <9504090951.aa19210@jackatak.theporch.com>
From: Fire Bottle archive handler <firebotl@jackatak.theporch.com>
Subject: A few sitings, and a NEED for a friend...

Gang-

I drove up to Bowling Green (KY) yesterday with some friends to a HamFest... it was small, and relatively well attended, but no real deals on any boatanchors of note.

I saw Don, W8IIT, who said, all smiles and excited, that someone from the list had called about the "Mon-Key" he had and had bought it. He would like to play, but he lives where it is long distance to the operator, so for the time being, he'll lurk way back in the shadows.

An item of interest(?) that I saw was a pair of ONE-OWNER Hallicrafter CB-11A HandiTalkies!!! These babies were but \$4.00 each, and if someone just has to own them, I'll happily pass on the name of the owner.

He also had a DX-60 in beautiful shape. Forget what he was asking, because I wasn't buying and he is a friend... sorry, gang. ;^)

There really were not many radios for sale... several newer rigs, but one guy with an AH-2 automatic antenna tuner in somewhat rough shape was asking \$475! His logic: a new AH-3 is almost \$825 especially with the dollar/yen situation as it is...

Maybe he'll get that when it is considered an antique, but he also offered: "I'm gonna take it to Dayton and raise the price. I'll get it, too."

He may. The "Greater Fool" system seems to work... for some... ;^)

Now, I have a firebottle need: some 6LQ6 or 6JM6 sweep tubes. NOS preferred. These are for a small, though portable, amplifier that sees the Caribbean from time to time and helps the terminally deaf detect 40 over S-9 signals... I'll email the "wanter" if someone has several for sale... He needs at least 4...

--

73

Jack, W4PPT/Mobile (75M SSB 2-letter WAS #1657/#1789 -- both all mobile! ;^)

- - - BoatAnchor Mailing List Archiver/Owner - - -

Jack GF Hill	Voice: (615) 459-2636	Ham Call: W4PPT
* P. O. Box 1685	Modem: (615) 377-5980	Bicycling and SCUBA Diving *
Brentwood, TN 37024	Fax: (615) 459-0038	Life Member - ARRL
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From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 03:08:58 1995

Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 00:11:58 -0500

Message-Id: <797408315.F00001@leotech>

From: Peter.Ferrand@leotech.mv.com (Peter Ferrand)

Subject: Antenna Switches

Roy:

The setup I was referring was the common one in which I had several antennas (including a loop) connected to the inputs of switch, the output of which went to a receiver. Unused inputs were grounded by the rotary switch.

This concept didn't sink in for years, but grounds and shields attenuate signals - they don't stop them entirely.

The exact configuration doesn't matter that much, in practice I think most of us have a variety of radios, antennas, preamps, attenuators, multicouplers, T/R switches, and overload protectors in the rf lines. The patch panel idea is the neatest simple

way to switch 'em all. The simplest way is coax running all over the place. Unlabeled.

I've never tried using mercury wetted relays on RF as it would attract general ridicule from the cognoscente.

If those BNC relays are good they should work, especially if you can ground the unused inputs.

One technique the pros use is to use two (or more) reed relays in series to increase the effective spacing between the contacts. The SGC-230 tuner uses this technique.

But remember that when you have a couple broadcasters a mile away, one of which is 5KW directional three towers in my direction, is a lot of rf voltage. And 350' of wire in the air (my vee beam) will pick up a signal and reradiate it everywhere and to things it's not connected to.

Bobbi:

Great idea - building copper catacombs for knife switches!

I'd run out of band-aids due to the shield edges. Might be easier to take a Racal 6790/GM receiver, trash the electronics, and build the knife switches inside the cavities of the milled aluminum chassis.

Last knife switches I bought were from an old-line chain electrical supply store 5-6 years ago - they had 'em listed in the inventory as "radio switches" (!!??)

The jumpers you suggest out of coax connectors would be fine for anyone who can build things to reasonable specs. This technique is, as you but not everyone knows, used in many motor-driven coax switches that turn up in surplus.

Let's see...my next project is a cross-point matrix switch built out a shielded Habitrail....

73,
-Pete
WB2QLL

Nashua, NH

* Origin: NETIS Public Access Internet (603)432-2517 (1:132/189)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 08:50:19 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 05:38:59 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504090434.A19627-01000000@indy2>
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@indynet.indy.net>
Subject: Re: Antenna Switches

On Sun, 9 Apr 1995, Peter Ferrand wrote:

> I've never tried using mercury wetted relays
> on RF as it would attract general ridicule from
> the cognoscente. [...]

However, the au courant[*] don't always have the inside track;
mercury-wetted reed relays are very reliable and I have used them very
successfully for small-signal *DC* switching in a huge RF
field--swapping the microAmpere current loop for a remote antenna-current
meter at an AM station from center-tower base current (day) to phasor
common-point current (night), in a unit mounted right beside the phasor
and 4 or 2 feet away from the 5kW PA, depending on which of the two
transmitters was in use. Can't see any reason why they wouldn't do just
fine for receivers and transmitters of up to a couple hundred watts,
especially combined with your next suggestion:

> [...] use two (or more) reed relays in series to increase the
> effective spacing between the contacts.

[...]

> But remember that when you have a couple broadcasters
> a mile away, one of which is 5KW directional three
> towers in my direction, is a lot of rf voltage. And
> 350' of wire in the air (my vee beam) will pick up a
> signal and reradiate it everywhere and to things it's
> not connected to.

Nasty! However, back when I did radio broadcast engineering, we ran
BC-band receivers (for the good ol' EBS system) and SW ones as well (have
to calibrate the freq counter, and what better than WWV's 10mc sigs?) even
closer to the antenna(a)--FS readings in the shop at WNDE were, well,
I'd better not say 'cos the EPA might be listening. *Volts* per meter.

The usual methods involve wave-traps and/or highpass filtering, keeping
everything "buttoned up," and no bare feeders in the building; whatever
enters, comes in on coax and got filtered at the door. It is not a total

fix--re-radiation (leading to excessive field strength) from the receive antenna is still a problem, as is making ground be low-Z everywhere ('specially at the filters! --*Wide* copper strap and a lot of ground rods, and even then you have to fake it and just try to keep the RFI on the *outside* of the gear as opposed to the semi-mythical shunting it off to ground).

...What does 350' of wire look like at the BC station's frequency, and can you make it look worse there and still get decent 160 or 80m performance?

> Great idea - building copper catacombs for knife switches!

Thanks, but the credit had better go to Jim Millen (NC-100 coil box), and I think he cribbed that part of it from RCA's '20s superhets. ;>

> I'd run out of band-aids due to the shield edges.

Double-sided glass-epoxy PC-board; round the edges and there you go, with "double shielding" thrown in! It's easy to work and to solder, too.

> Might be easier to take a Racal 6790/GM receiver, trash the electronics,
> and build the knife switches inside the cavities of the milled
> aluminum chassis.

<grin> There's easier ways--SesCom is selling nifty little tinned-steel boxes for RF projects. A skilled trash-sifter might find junked CATV or microwave stuff that'd do the trick, too. None of this tossin' out the baby 'cos you need the dishpan required! (H'mm, dishpan...the bigger sardine tins would do splendidly, it's a pity I hate the little fishies! Then you bolt them all to a brownie pan for the main chassis; too bad the A&P doesn't stock knife switches).

> The jumpers you suggest out of coax connectors would be
> fine for anyone who can build things to reasonable specs.

Not even that demanding. A BNC-hardware U would have as much as 1/16" slop to it, and most folks can do that close without even trying very hard. Slap masking tape on a piece of 3/32" aluminium, use a compass to make a circle of the proper dimension, mark off the jack locations evenly, drill the holes a tad undersize, and use a medium small rat-tail file. There's a "skirt" on the BNC jacks that'll cover small non-circularity if some of the holes end up a little egg-shaped. Might take four hours to do a neat job of it, and a bit more for painting and labelling. (Y'know, I

otta see if a local machine shop can punch out some plates for that method--might be a useful product!)

Six jacks around the outer edge is easy to do, and a "magic number:" the distance between any set of adjacent jacks is the same as the distance from the center jack. This leads to some interesting connection arrangements with a bit of planning.

> Let's see...my next project is a cross-point matrix
> switch built out a shielded Habitrail....

You're tempting me! Since I am dreadfully literal, here's A Hint For The Amateur Machinist: it should be possible to drill holes in moderately thick but narrow strips of brass (or aluminium) that would fit bannana plugs nicely; then you make up a "sandwich" of seven layers--metal cover sheet with oversize holes, fairly thick insulator with corresponding holes, strips running side to side with bannana-jack-sized holes, another insulator with grid of holes, strips running at 90 degrees to the previous set, another insulator (no holes) and a backplate, also sans holes.

Capacity to ground and at the (literal!) cross-points will be the rub--thick insulators of low dielectric constant and *very* narrow signal-strips will help. And the top two sections are ideally so thick that the metal parts of the bannana plug don't protrude above them when it's plugged in. ...A nice lid to cover the crosspoint array when not patching would be a plus to keep the RF where it belongs.

It'd be a super-simple thing to use--antennas along one axis, radios along the other; stick a plug in to hook an antenna in row X with a rig in column Y and there 'tis! :)

But in practice it'd probably be a mess to make work. Maybe if you used miniature bannana plugs? Probably not even then. It's awfully handy at DC, though.

73,
--Bobbi

* I see your Italian word, and raise ya a French phrase! (Oooh, the mavens and afficianados are on the prowl tonight). <wink>

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 12:54:40 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 10:04:52 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504090931.A20927-0100000@indy2>
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@indynet.indy.net>
Subject: Re: Antenna Switches

Hi!

An addition to my previous silly crosspoint thing: a little more sawing and work would allow one to run sheilding pieces between the input and output strips in the matrix; this would improve port-to-port isolation between adjacent rows and columns.

It's still a pretty crazy approach, but it's marginally possible for someone willing to work out the fine details of keeping the stray capacity down. Milling the I/O strips much narrower between ports might help; one could even use PC-board, etch the pattern, and solder on brass or copper sleeves at the crosspoints. Mind alignment! It's fussy but there are ways to keep everything properly registered during assembly that should be obvious.

The shield piece between the "rows" and "columns" levels can be another bit of copper-clad, etched away at the crosses and with inter-row/column shielding strips soldered to it. To keep capacity down at the crosses, the ends of the sleeves should be bevelled rather than flush; both inside and outside bevelling would make them grip at the etched-bare points on the center piece, since it would be drilled to the same ID as the sleeve. (Is this making sense, or should I shut up and start drawing?)

...Of course, if you're etching it anyhow, 50R microstrip for the rows and columns is trivially easy to do[*]; the crosspoints could probably be worked out to looking like 50R, too, but it's more effort than I have time for right now. (The ratio between the sleeves and shield being the thing to dope out). (I do realize that whole etching thing isn't too boatanchorish--tubes and copperclad were *not* made for each other! The traditionalist is welcome to glue copper foil to Bakelite; it will work just as well! And there are point-to-point solutions to keeping the impedance reasonably constant, of course).

73,
--Bobbi

*Ummm, help me out here--for standard 1/16" G-10 copperclad, it's something around .11" or so wide, isn't it?

From boatanchors@theporch.com Mon Apr 10 02:36:52 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 23:55:44 -0500
Message-Id: <797496807.F00001@leotech>
From: Peter.Ferrand@leotech.mv.com (Peter Ferrand)
Subject: Antenna Switches

On Sun, 9 Apr 1995, Bobbi wrote:

[some sort of CAD/CAM nightmare involving banana plugs and multilayered beveled copperclad to achieve a crosspoint switch]

I love it...the broadcast engineer's mentality...think about a complex and incomprehensible solution to a speculative question... usually when there's 20db of crosstalk in the console and a cart machine that won't recue :-)

Just kidding...I'm sure all your other problems are solved.

I really think I've seen some implementation of the banana plug project you describe, don't know where, maybe a regenerative diffusion spline in a sci-fi show, or part of the programming panel from an IBM-7090.

Seriously, folks..DON'T use mercury wetted relays for RF. There were numerous problems when this was tried years ago...even Dow-key made a mercury antenna relay very briefly. Seems the mercury breaks down under RF - some military xmtrs I know of developed weird second and third harmonic output that was eliminated by dumping the mercury relays - they rectified!!! Also the mercury laden gas inside the tube isn't a very good rf insulator. Also after a while the mercury no longer wets the contacts for some metallurgical reason I don't recall.

The Collins ART-13 used a mercury high voltage relay, and supposedly this was a very high failure rate item.

Low level DC switching is where they'll work fine, and next to a 5KW PA, who'd know if they rectified a little?

As to the vee beam reradiation, it really isn't that bad a problem as long as everything's grounded. I use open wires since I need it for all bands, and there's two AM's in town, so there's not much I can do that's practical. It's a lot easier when you're just dealing with b'cast stations which don't QSY.

Anyway it's a lot better here than where I used to live halfway across town when my Opto freq counter would read 106.3 - with nothing plugged into it!

And this from a 3KW at 300' with old horizontal Andrew V-dipoles, I think they were. About ten blocks away.

Or maybe because the Opto used to be owned by Wayne Green?

73,
-Pete
WB2QLL
Nashua, NH
(who never could stand sardines either)

* Origin: NETIS Public Access Internet (603)432-2517 (1:132/189)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 14:30:47 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 11:37:49 -0500
Message-Id: <950409123712_77091272@aol.com>
From: Scgilstrap@aol.com
Subject: Re: BEWARE OF MARKET TIMING

>In a small market mania, all stages happen much faster.
>It took several years for the 57 Chevy market to peak
>(about the time those who were 18-20 during 1957
>finished buying the old hulks), and the subsequent
>price collapse took some time to happen. The price
>collapse in Collins equipment and other BAs is likely
>to be sudden and brutal. Japanese money and interest

Sudden and brutal wouldn't be surprizing. But when could it happen with this commodity? My experiences are limited to livestock. My wife raises Arabian horses and we watched the prices of stallions rise exponentially a number of years ago and then not too long after that they dropped exponentially. (E.g.: our friend's \$40K stallion might bring about \$5K now.) We've been observing the same thing with ostrich and emu markets. Is this the key with BAs? Watch for outrageous increases in prices and just hold out for awhile until the inevitable sudden and brutal collapse in prices? I can wait if that's really the case here. I'd like some more of these neato radios but I ain't gonna sell the farm to get 'em.

(As an aside to the discussion on BAs as collectibles/investments:)
(excerpted text follows)

>In this case the situation seems to be made worse by folks in a certain
>Asian nation ...

>have created a small, artificial domestic market for Collins radios

Yep, the Japanese (as well as other "investors") have not helped

keep the price of BAs down but it is gratifying that they like our American built products. But I wonder if they share our American propensity of attaching endearing labels to foreign manufactured products. That is, do you suppose they call the American built radio gear they're collecting Cheeseburger-boxes or some such thing? ;-)

73 de Stan - WB5LBH

(These nicknames aren't limited to radios btw. We used to call the Mutsubishi MU-2 turbo-props "rice-rockets". The rocket part referred to their enviable performance. Back when I was augering holes in the sky in Beech 18s, traffic advisories on an MU-2 would typically go something like this: "Beech 34 Bravo you have over-taking traffic, an MU-2, at your 3 o'clock position, no make that 2 o'clock, no, make that ... never mind, traffic no factor.")

From boatanchors@theporch.com Mon Apr 10 01:07:32 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 22:38:33 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950409233200.7884A-1000000@peach.epix.net>
From: rarland@epix.net
Subject: Chevy "Wonderbar" radio

I've got a delema. The VoEd autobody instructor where I teach has a 58 vette (I know, life sucks) that has a "Wonderbar" radio that does not work. I need to find a schematic and any other info I can on what makes this thing tick.

He said if I get it working, I can drive the Vette. I'm holding out for a weekend where I can take it to PHilly and pick up some girls!

73 rich

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 21:39:09 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 18:41:20 -0500
Message-Id: <Chameleon.4.01.2.950409193649.jproc@jproc>
From: jproc@worldlinx.com
Subject: DAQ or DAU HF/DF set ?

Dear BA's,

Someone informed me that the Model DAU high frequency direction finding set was the standard fit in ships of the Royal Canadian Navy at the end of World War 2. I have nothing in my files to verify this statement, but I do have a brief reference about an American built set called the model DAQ. Perhaps my contributor has the Q and U mixed up(???) Can anyone confirm the existence of a DAU set? Does anyone have any specs on either or both of these sets?

Thank you.

Jerry Proc VE3FAB
E-mail: jproc@worldlinx.com
Radio Restoration Volunteer
HMCS Haida Toronto, Ontario

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 05:52:20 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 01:08:27 -0500
Message-Id: <950409060322_72227.1640_EHM78-1@CompuServe.COM>
From: David Stinson AB5S/7 <72227.1640@compuserve.com>
Subject: KEY CRAZIES

Tom Adams K9TA wrote:

"The recent loss of U.S. Coast Guard CW operations
has brought telegraphy to the forefront in the public mind.
Key collecting prices have been getting down-right depressing
the last few years; at Dayton this year, expect them to go
totally insane."

A very good bet, Tom. At the last monthly Vegas swap meet,
some fellow was selling one of those common airborne keys
with the big bulb handle that Fair Radio has for \$30-odd bucks
(a ridiculous price for such a common key).

The thing was a shambles. The base was missing, the front
action spacer screw and the contact cover were all missing
and it was scratched to heck. This guy asked \$35 for this
wreckage. The last I saw it, some poor, starry-eyed
youth was oggling this 'war relic." I hope he didn't
buy the thing, but some poor sucker will, no doubt.

73 DE AB5S/7
Dave Stinson
Lost Wages, Nevada

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 14:38:39 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 11:51:30 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504090938.A19318-0100000@netcom20>
From: paul Veltman <veltman@netcom.com>
Subject: Re: KEY CRAZIES

Dave and Gang,

You know, this thread brings up a more serious point here. All sarcasm aside, there seems to be a steadily increasing presence of "dealers" that inhabit the fleas around here. Foothill is a stinking example. These people run around the parking lot when the first sellers get there and snatch up all the bargains, then you see the same stuff at double the price one hour later and 2 aisles away. And they're selling real junk at premium prices. Whenever I go to Foothill or Livermore, I am set upon by the same bunch of dealers that want me to bring my Collins stuff to sell. I told the last guy that if he wanted my KWM2A, it would cost him \$1200. Boy, did he scurry away quickly. :-) Besides, I use the stuff, I don't "invest" in it. If I sold it, then I'd have to go out and buy another rig, and I just don't want to do that.

There was a guy at Livermore a couple of months ago literally selling a pile of rust for \$100. This was a Johnson Viking transmitter (I believe), and the story line was that this guy had a house in the mountains and that he croaked some years back, and the remains were only recently discovered, and this is what was in his "fabulous collection". Anyway, this stuff couldn't even be scavanged for parts.

I long for a return to the days when there were club auctions and flea markets and the sellers were guys selling excess junk out of their shacks. Mostly stuff they bought at the last auction. And the priceless "box of goodies" for \$10. You take it home and play with the contents for a month.

Anyway, sorry for rambling. Just want to make my opinions on dealers known.

73

Paul WA6OKQ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 17:48:58 1995

Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 15:06:02 -0500

Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950409155725.28150A-1000000@peach.epix.net>

From: rarland@epix.net

Subject: Re: KEY CRAZIES

I recently experienced a "reality rub" on the qrp list. It seems that some "collector" was telling folks that the early Ten-Tec PowerMite QRP transceivers (the PM-1, PM2A, etc) were going for up to \$100! Since most of these sets sold for around \$70 new in the late 60s to early 70s, I guess this represents a classic example of what we're discussing.

Not only the PM gear, Ten-Tec Argonauts have gone up tremendously. Last year at Dayton, I saw one for sale at \$575 and the guy had a line of

buyers. Its not bad enough that Ten-Tec sold a 5 watt radio for \$1200 that had mega performance problems, now the older QRP gear is going thru the roof.

73 rich, K7YHA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 18:58:38 1995

Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 15:57:27 -0500

Message-Id: <9504092026.AA03109@uvs1.orl.mmc.com>

From: padgett@tccslr.dnet.mmc.com (A. Padgett Peterson, P.E. Information Security)

Subject: Re: KEY CRAZIES

>I long for a return to the days when there were club auctions and flea
>markets and the sellers were guys selling excess junk out of their
>shacks. Mostly stuff they bought at the last auction. And the priceless
>"box of goodies" for \$10. You take it home and play with the contents
>for a month.

What you are seeing is the start of a dicotomy but it is not all bad. I am fanatical about T/Os and I pay reasonable (at least the sellers seems to think so) prices. Still the average is less than for a '67 Grand Prix headlamp switch but then a T/O does not have vaccuum operated doors.

As a result I have only bought one radio at a show (and then it was just for the screwy face plate). Did buy one *after* a show, but most are from someone sending E-mail (and often starts with someone asking "do you know what this is ?"). I do not go to hamfests to buy rigs. I go to see what new parts are out and to meet people (spent an entire National meet in the bar at the host hotel once, didn't get to the swap meet area until the third day. Of course most everything I wanted there was *already* purchased, was just picking it up).

The really obscure pieces rarely pass through dealers and even more rarely for money - usually swaps are the rule ("This is a \$10,000 dog." "How do you know?" "Just swapped two \$5,000 cats for it.") or the majority of the deal.

The good thing about dealers/vendors is that they quickly find out what parts are really in demand and often wind up reproducing essential pieces than an individual will rarely realize that there is a demand for, particularly when the up-front costs may be a couple of grand for a plastic knob - and then people will scream at the \$25.00 price while paying it. I am bothered by all the "extra" charges AES piles on but that is their right and they do have quite a few things unavailable elsewhere.

The fact is that the venders of whole rigs at a show are not expecting to sell to a real enthusiast - they are looking at the clueless "impulse" buyers (and I am constantly amazed at how many of them there are and how

much extra money they seem to have).

But to me the vendors are a sign of maturity not depravity & am not bothered by their 0-dark-thirty scurrying though it is amusing to watch. Preferably from the bar. The big stuff I wanted was arranged for before anyone ever arrived & never sat on a table.

Warmly,
Padgett

ps also not saying you cannot find incredible stuff sometimes but usually I just carry \$25 or \$50 at a show, is all that is needed.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 23:34:06 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 21:00:57 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504091841.A5131-01000000@netcom12>
From: "Hal R. Waite" <halwaite@netcom.com>
Subject: Looking for 7059 Tubes

On examining the schematic for my new (to me) Hallicrafters SR-2000, I noticed that the tube lineup is all 12-volt, with one leg a string of two 6-volt tubes. The tube that I am requesting seems to be the 12-volt equivalent of the 6U8(A) much used in Collins gear. I could change the filament wiring to set up series strings of 6-volt tubes but I would rather preserve the original. Will pay cash for several of these tubes or trade tubes or other parts.

The rig is surprisingly high quality considering that production was late in the Hallicrafters lifetime when both receivers and transmitters were cheapened, both mechanically and electrically. It has the simple controls of the KWM-2, lacking notch filtering and passband tuning, but the frequency stability is excellent, transmit quality excellent, and an honest kilowatt peak output from a small dasktop unit. The smaller rigs used sweep tubes (ugh) but this uses 8122's. Highly recommended!

Hal K4GFI/7 Las Vegas halwaite@netcom.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 23:32:09 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 20:45:52 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950409213217.1454B-1000000@laurel.us.net>
From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>
Subject: Re: Negative Comments on Dayton

On Sat, 8 Apr 1995 Hal R. Waite wrote:

> Let's see if I'm the only oddball in this bunch who thinks that Dayton
> is largely a waste of time for boatanchor searchers. I was so disgusted
> with the gear available in Dayton in 1991 and 1992 that I have not

> returned. Despite the expense of the swap tables there, the old junk
> offered for sale was probably not worth the entry fee.

I've found hamfests in general as terrible places for finding BA's, but then I hear about people finding all kinds of wonderful pieces that I never saw. I have a couple of theories about why this is with the most logical being that the good stuff gets grabbed up very quickly.

OK, assuming I'm correct, how about this? What if those of us who go to Dayton with particular wants distribute the list and names and then stay in touch with 2 meter CB's? If a half-dozen or so search the flea market area systematically promptly at opening time, maybe we help each other find those treasures we've always wanted.

What do you think????

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+-----+
| Tony Stalls, K4KY0 |
| Arlington, VA      |
| ras@us.net         |
+-----+
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From boatanchors@theporch.com Mon Apr 10 03:31:49 1995
Date: Mon, 10 Apr 1995 00:41:16 -0500
Message-Id: <950409214033.2078@ESHOP.UOREGON.EDU>
From: WA6JYJ@eshop.uoregon.edu (Larry Laitinen WA6JYJ/AAR0ET)
Subject: Re: Negative Comments on Dayton

It is better to buy a swap table space and get in during the setup period.
This way you get to do the advance buying before the public gets in! This
is when the *serious* buying/selling gets done!

Larry, WA6JYJ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 03:08:34 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 00:30:08 -0500
Message-Id: <950409012847_76855129@aol.com>
From: WaltN@aol.com
Subject: Re: Testing caps

>>Where did you get the 3m light duty rubbing compound- is it an automotive
product?
thanks,
Steve, KD2ED, smiller@motown.ge.com<<

Bopught it at a local auto laquer store. Yes, it's an automotive product,

should be available at auto paint supply shops.

Walt

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 14:52:37 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 11:59:18 -0500
Message-Id: <199504091652.LAA11361@quake.xnet.com>
From: mshaum@xnet.com (Mark Shaum)
Subject: Re: THE COLLECTABLES TRAP

>
>I'm still hearing from people who think they're going to pay for their
retirement
>(after waiting until they're 50 to start thinking about it) by hording BA
radios.
>That's your business, but I'd be doing my friends and fellow BA lovers
>a disservice if I didn't speak out. I pilfered this little gem from a work
>by Oliver Sharp, and thought I'd pass it along.
>
>Excerpted from: (Most Deleted)
>
>Roman coins! (Or 75A-4s...ed)

I have to agree with you on the investment fallacy, Dave. The inflation cycle that most tube gear is running through is particularly hard on folks like myself who mainly enjoy using old gear. Finding, fixing or building hollow-state communications gear is an aspect of our hobby that has bitten me pretty hard over the last three years. I've been fortunate enough to locate a number of moderately-priced rigs (and one overpriced Ranger...) that have a place on the OPERATING bench, not wrapped in plastic on a shelf somewhere waiting for future resale. Darn near every tube box I own gets fired up once a week if not more often. Most likely the only reason I would sell some of the stuff is if I ran out absolute room or ended up with a Framistram XVI that I never seemed to use for whatever reason.

I'd love to own a 75A4. I have a parts bin full of high-voltage FET's that I'd love to use in a solid-state conversion of one, turning a great ham receiver into an even better one, performance wise. I've had these parts for 15 years.. but I can't see paying \$800 for a chassis, PTO and front panel! While I'll agree that top-line rigs from any particular era should demand more value than lower-end gear, the proportions seem a bit out of whack.

So, my shack tends to fill up with midrange gear. An NC173 instead of an HRO. A HQ129X in place of a desired HQ180A. A Ranger and Viking II instead of a 500, etc. Opportunities to sample the high end gear are just going to be on hold until the demand for a fairly fixed supply of particular models drops off a bit.

73! - Mark, NE9G

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 23:40:43 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 20:28:39 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950409205809.1454A-1000000@laurel.us.net>
From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>
Subject: Re: THE COLLECTABLES TRAP

It would appear that most Boatanchorites are pretty savvy about BA's as collectables and do as I do and get the various items because we like them. Nobody is going to get rich on these things, nor are they going to finance a retirement. The new generation is pretty much only interested in computers and little boxes of whiz-bang bells and whistles and they are the ones we would have to eventually sell the goodies to.

I know for sure that I'm not going to make much, if anything at all on any of this wonderful stuff. As is usually the case, I'm more likely to lose money on it, or as will most likely be the case, it'll be in an SK sale some day. I'll have to be sure to appoint an BA'er as an executor so the jewels in the crown won't end up in a dumpster.

I had to wince when I read about WB50AU's comic book collection. When we were kids, we collected Tops baseball cards every year. I think that we all had almost complete sets from about 1953 to 1955, before we discovered girls. Sometime between the school years, we would throw them away and start over the next year. I don't want to think about what they would bring today. Well, I once "threw away" an SCR-299 (sans ONLY the 2-1/2 ton truck) too, but I'd rather not think about that either.

73,

Tony
K4KY0

From boatanchors@theporch.com Mon Apr 10 04:32:28 1995
Date: Mon, 10 Apr 1995 01:43:42 -0500
Message-Id: <9504100647.AA6422@hqsmtp.ops.3com.com>
From: Joe Reda/HQ/3Com <Joe_Reda@3mail.3com.com>
Subject: Re: THE COLLECTABLES TRAP

OK, everyone, I'm writing this pretty late so excuse me if it doesn't make

lotsa sense . . .

Must agree with everything that's been said so far about the state of the BA market. When I see Hallicrafters S-38s going for \$150, then I know there's craziness abounding. Just last weekend at the swap meet I saw a 75-A-4 going for \$550; I don't know Collins prices very well but IMHO, I think that's about \$200 - 250 over what the price should be. The radio was in decent condition but I suspect the seller would have asked that price even if the radio had been covered in dust and dirt.

When I run into something that I know is overpriced, I'm getting to where I don't have a problem expressing my opinion to the seller. These folks need to start experiencing the joy of carting the gear to meet after meet and wondering why it doesn't sell. For example, an R-390 I own (that was in really dirty, ratty condition at the swap) went from \$300 in the morning to \$150 at the end of the swap at which point I bought it.

The rot has to stop somewhere and I'm trying to do my part by not buying overpriced gear no matter how badly I want it -- and not selling overpriced stuff. I'm also not selling to off-shore buyers; too many BAs have found their way into places where they'll never be seen (or probably used) again.

If people think that BAs are a "collectible" or an "investment", it'll be the death of the hobby as we know it. Just ask anyone at the next "Antique Radio" swap you attend.

\\Joe KC6TXU

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 11:31:19 1995

Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 08:38:01 -0500

Message-Id: <9504091249.AA02315@uvs1.orl.mmc.com>

From: padgett@tccslr.dnet.mmc.com (A. Padgett Peterson, P.E. Information Security)

Subject: Re: The Collectible Trap?

BK rites:

>I recollect seeing somewhere that demand is the senior partner in the law of
>supply and demand---

Exactly true. The keywords of collecting are "rare" and "desirable", they do not always go together but both are necessary (rarest Pontiac, 1966 Bonneville 4-door with 4-speed manual transmission and a/c. 1 built and documented by the factory. We won't go into the "One of none" cars). Further, both are subjective (or why, if torn between two BAs of equal performance, it is a good idea to ask an (X)YL which she would be willing to have in the living room).

The second thing to remember is that there is a difference between real and artificial worth as Florida swampland and the Hunt boy's silver demonstrate.

True, I rarely follow my own advice but if you must "invest" in BAs, always look for the following:

- 1) Renowned manufacturer (I prefer domestic)
- 2) Top of the line with every extra (and obviously so)
- 3) Too expensive when new for high production
- 4) Easily recognizable
- 5) Attention grabbing
- 6) Easy to use
- 7) Selling for less than it cost new

and always remember the first rule of collecting: "Condition is everything."

With that in mind, before starting on such a career, first, pick a specialty, gather every piece of literature available, and learn everything possible about what is "right" and what is "wrong" (check out the knobs controversy to see what I mean) since little things can quickly turn an asset into a liability. If you do not enjoy that, then something other than collecting may interest you more.

Having said that, I need to get back to reading - attended a little tailgate party (seven vendors) & with a total expenditure of \$20.00, netted two boxes that happened to contain a 175 va 0-140vac pot, 0-150vac voltmeter, 0-500ma ac ammeter (highest draw on a T/O I know of is 200ma) and a collection of assorted jacks plus a 0-15vac meter (dunno what I am going to do with that); a 1947 edition of Terman's Radio Engineering (nice), and a 1953 Radiotron Fourth (worn but intact). Maybe now I can understand Pentagrid converters.

Oh yes, for the record, was also an apparently complete, correct, working, nice looking Hallicrafters SX-99 general coverage (540kc-34Mc) receiver for \$75.00 and one of the ugliest Hallicrafters I've ever seen - an S-28 (think that's the number) tabletop - square 8"x6"x4" box with not-enough knobs - looked like a poorly assembled kit. And a Zenith 8S127 Cathedral (well it has shortwave bands) for \$175 in nonworking/cosmetically needing a lot of help condition. Maybe shoulda bought the SX but the only way I can keep from going broke is to specialize narrowly.

Warmly,
Padgett

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 20:12:22 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 17:10:29 -0500
Message-Id: <199504092209.RAA27656@zoom.bga.com>
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>
Subject: Re: The Collectible Trap?

As A. Padgett Peterson, P.E. Information Security said
>

> Having said that, I need to get back to reading - attended a little tailgate
> party (seven vendors) & with a total expenditure of \$20.00, netted two boxes
> that happened to contain a 175 va 0-140vac pot, 0-150vac voltmeter, 0-500ma ac
> ammeter (highest draw on a T/O I know of is 200ma) and a collection of
> assorted jacks plus a 0-15vac meter (dunno what I am going to do with that);
> a 1947 edition of Terman's Radio Engineering (nice), and a 1953 Radiotron
> Fourth (worn but intact). Maybe now I can understand Pentagrid converters.

Boy, you made out like a bandit with those two books. I'd value the 1947 edition of Terman above the Langford-Smith 4th in many respects. Langford-Smith is too much like the ARRL handbooks of that era---lots of ideas without sufficient engineering information to convert them to practical use in something I have sitting on the bench. The article on converter circuits in Langford-Smith's 4th seems to be a copy of **the** paper on the subject. I found the stuff in Terman to be a lot more valuable when it came to designing a product detector for the RME-45---which I still feel a bit mixed about. I haven't published the circuit anywhere, because I am still not satisfied with it.

>
> Oh yes, for the record, was also an apparantly complete, correct, working,
> nice looking Hallicrafters SX-99 general coverage (540kc-34Mc) receiver for
> \$75.00 and one of the ugliest Hallicrafters I've ever seen - an S-28 (think
> that's the number) tabletop - square 8"x6"x4" box with not-enough knobs -
> looked like a poorly assembled kit.

Hmmph! I suspect what you saw was one of the S-38 family, which is an "All American Five" with three more oscillator and RF coils in the 12SA7 circuit. If you were looking at an SX-28 (or 28A) you might find it ugly---though I think its case and panel are one of the better art deco jobs on a boatanchor. But it's about 19 inches wide, equally deep, and nearly a foot high, and weighs the better part of 100 lbs., and certainly has no shortage of front panel knobs. An S-38 would not be a bad little set for a non-ham old radio restorer to have around---it'll tune in all the WWV's, and can listen for a local oscillator at 18.455 Mhz.

And a Zenith 8S127 Cathedral (well it has
> shortwave bands) for \$175 in nonworking/cosmetically needing a lot of help
> condition. Maybe shoulda bought the SX but the only way I can keep from
> going broke is to specialize narrowly.

> Warmly,
> Padgett
>

--

Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 21:38:51 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 18:45:03 -0500
Message-Id: <9504092341.AA03485@uvs1.orl.mmc.com>
From: padgett@tccslr.dnet.mmc.com (A. Padgett Peterson, P.E. Information Security)
Subject: Re: The Collectible Trap?

Musta been the S-38 then cause this thing was small (8x6x4") and U-gly with tiny opposing 180 degree dials (assume one may have been bandspread). Looked like a '30s table radio.

P.flr

ps am wading through the Terman now, have my old calc books at hand 8*).

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 03:38:37 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 00:53:17 -0500
Message-Id: <199504090545.WAA07477@mozart.bcit.bc.ca>
From: "Colin Schmutter" <Colin.Schmutter@theporch.com>
Subject: Trio 9R-4 Schematic

I am looking for a schematic for a Trio 9R-4 receiver.

If anyone can help please contact me at cschmutter@bcit.bc.ca

Thanks,

Colin
Colin Schmutter
VE7CQH

CSCHMUTTER@BCIT.BC.CA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 15:04:43 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 11:55:54 -0500
Message-Id: <199504091651.LAA11342@quake.xnet.com>
From: mshaum@xnet.com (Mark Shaum)
Subject: Viking II Notes

I was able to pick up a Viking II from a local ham a week ago, and thought I'd forward some of my observations on this fine transmitter, particularly with a note of variants on the audio and modulator stages.

The schematic for my Viking II is dated 12/16/52. This uses the 'older' design audio chain that uses negative feedback from the modulator outputs. Easily identified by the use of a series connected 220K resistor and .01 uf cap between the output of the mod transformer and the cathode of the second 6AU6 audio stage. Rather interesting design in that if you flip the plate

connectors on the 807's you change from negative to positive feedback and have a nice 70 watt power audio oscillator. CW in this rig is handled by cathode keying of the 6AU6 xtal osc/vfo amp tube. Fixed -25 volt bias is applied to the 6AQ5 buffer.

Johnson provided sheets describing two modification sets to the Viking II, "A" and "B" mods. The "A" mod involves addition of a 6AQ5 screen clamp tube for the 6146's (which my rig already had) with several circuit revisions to incorporate the clamp tube bias adjustment and revised tuning instructions.

The "B" mod removes the audio feedback circuit and converts the second 6AU6 audio driver stage to a class A triode in operation. A few resistor and cap changes are incorporated to extend the audio response down to 250 hz and provide a faster rolloff above 3000 hz. This mod was supplied for Viking I as well as II units. Additional changes for the Viking II described include replacing the 6146 screen supply RF choke with a 56 ohm 1W resistor, adding a 10K "Q-reduction" resistor in the driver plate tank, adding a 0.1 uf bypass on the clamp tube bias pot to stabilize PA screen voltage jumps a bit, and replacing the 4.7 uh choke which supplies B+ to the VFO socket with a lower-inductance hand wound coil.

The keying circuitry in my V-II was interesting. It kinda threw me until I drew it out and noted that the set had (almost) been converted to grid block keying. The components in this portion of the circuit seem of similar vintage to the rest of the rig, but the terminal strips used are definitely different. I'm wondering if this was another Johnson modification that might have been incorporated into later Viking II sets? My set had problems in that the 6AU6/6AQ5 rf chain never quite was cutoff, so I moved the negative feed for the keyed bias supply from the original -25V point on the bias divider to the -75V point through a 220K resistor. I've 'tapped' the grid resistor to the 6AQ5 and added a cap to let the buffer key slower than the oscillator, which makes for a much nicer keyed waveform. Conversion of the external VFO-122 to grid-blocked mode instead of cathode keying still remains, although this isn't an urgent need. Feedthrough from the VFO when it is running is only audible in the receiver with no antenna connected, so I may hold off for a while.

If anybody is interested in my final version of the grid block keyed circuit, I'd be glad to provide it. If Johnson incorporated grid blocked keying in later variants of the Viking II, I'd be interested if someone could check into their diagrams and let me know how Johnson handled keying of the external VFO.

Other modifications oft heard regarding the Viking II.. replacing the audio driver transformer with a heftier version from AES. Apparently the original tended to burn out frequently? This change is sometimes incorporated with replacing the 6AU6 audio driver with something that will run at a higher plate current. I might try a shunt feed for the audio driver to get the B+

off of the primary if I can dig up a suitable choke for the feed.

I've heard comments regarding the lack of enough gain in the audio chain. Maybe with a low output mike this is true, but using my favorite little Turner hand-held ceramic mike originally from my novice-days Heath Twoer provided 100% modulation with the audio gain pot set at 6-7, and received reports of excellent audio seem to indicate that there aren't any major problems!

Other plans.. a soft-start circuit for the AC. The LV transformer tends to hum notably for 5-6 seconds when AC power is first applied. Probably a good thing to add to all these old rigs. I picked up a RS relay that will be used to switch primary power to the plate supply in place of the front panel switch so that I can incorporate PTT. I may replace the 6146's with 6146B's and reset the clamp tube to provide higher screen voltage for another 50 watts or so on CW, but this really isn't needed. Might overstress the plate xfmr a little, but I figure if it can supply 160 watts or so to the RF stages along with 75 watts plus to the modulators, it should handle 210 watts input on CW without problems (which is what a pair of 6146B's will run).

Overall a great rig. Clean keying, smooth tuning, and good audio. And the roller inductor pi-net output covers many WARC bands without a problem. The VFO-122 strikes me as one of the ugliest little boxes in the shack, but it is definitely stable. Amazing that the same VFO design in my Ranger would give me so much grief <grin>.

73! - Mark, NE9G

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 08:20:53 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 05:20:26 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504091246.A21090-01000000@inet.uni-c.dk>
From: MEC <danmec@inet.uni-c.dk>
Subject: WTB: S-line CW filter

I have managed to get a piece of Collins S-line here. However, I found that it did not have a CW filter. Being a keen CW operator, this is for me not a good situation.

Can anyone help with a CW filter for 73S3C ?

I will be in Dayton, for possible pick up. Alternatively pay postage .

73 Rag OZ8R0/LA5HE

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 9 15:04:41 1995
Date: Sun, 9 Apr 1995 12:18:52 -0500
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504091240.A11890-01000000@ozarks>
From: "C. Frank Gilmore" <fgilmore@ozarks.sgcl.lib.mo.us>
Subject: Re: WTB: S-line CW filter

On Sun, 9 Apr 1995, MEC wrote:

>
> I have managed to get a piece of Collins S-line here.
> However, I found that it did not have a CW filter. Being a
> keen CW operator, this is for me not a good situation.
>
> Can anyone help with a CW filter for 73S3C ?
>
> I will be in Dayton, for possible pick up. Alternatively pay postage .
>
> 73 Rag OZ8R0/LA5HE
>
>

Last 75S3B I had came with the original Collins CW filter but I swapped it out for the one International Radio (Formerly Fox Tango Club) sells. Much steeper skirts. It was about \$100 at the time and I bet they still make it. I have a McKay Marine receiver that uses same filters as 75A4 and have been thinking about putting one of the IR filters in it on an adaptor.

That is one possibility if you can't locate a good one. Beware of Collins filters at hamfest flea markets! I got burned on a 51J4 filter several years ago. Looked mint...even checked good with ohm meter...didn't work!

73,

de K0JPJ ex-W5PVX ...-.-